

I remember working the line, trying to comfort people coming out of that rubble, and a guy grabbed me by the arm, and he said, "Do not let me down." Ever since that day, that fateful day, I've woken up doing whatever I can to protect this country. I will never relent in defending you, whatever it takes.

Four years ago as I had the honor of traveling your State, I made this pledge, I said if you gave me the chance to serve, I would uphold the honor and the dignity of the office. With your hard work, with your help, I will do so for 4 more years.

May God bless you, and may God bless our great country. Thanks for coming. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:58 p.m. at the McIntyre Ski Area. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Craig Benson of New Hampshire; New Hampshire State Senator Theodore L. Gatsas and his wife, Cassandra; Massachusetts State Representative Brian Paul Golden; country music entertainers the Oak Ridge Boys; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7823—National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 2004

October 1, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we raise awareness of this deadly disease, encourage early detection, and support research to find a cure.

Prevention and early detection are key to winning the fight against breast cancer. Although the exact cause of the disease is unknown, factors that can affect the risk of developing cancer include age, general health, and family history. This year, estimates are that over 200,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Regular screening for breast cancer continues to be the most effective way to detect this disease early and to save lives, and mammograms are the best screening tool we currently have. Women

should talk to their health care providers about their breast cancer risk.

To improve the quality of life and find a cure for those affected by breast cancer, we are learning more about its causes. The National Institutes of Health has invested an estimated \$700 million this year alone on breast cancer research and will spend more next year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has devoted over \$200 million this year and more next year for an early detection program that promotes mammograms and helps low-income women afford screenings for breast and cervical cancer. The Department of Defense also invested approximately \$150 million for its Breast Cancer Research program in 2004. This funding will help lead to better treatments for cancer patients and new hope for countless Americans and their families.

We salute breast cancer survivors for their courage and perseverance. Their courageous battle against cancer is an inspiration to countless Americans, and their willingness to share their stories and experiences helps spread awareness and offers hope and comfort to cancer patients across the country. Together with health care professionals, researchers, and family members, we can improve the lives of those suffering from this disease and win the fight against breast cancer.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2004 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon Government officials, businesses, communities, health care professionals, educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to continue our Nation's strong commitment to controlling and curing breast cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 5, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 6.

Remarks to the National Association of Home Builders in Columbus, Ohio
October 2, 2004

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Thanks a lot. Thanks for the warm welcome. I appreciate being with the homebuilders from all across our country. It's a good way to spend a Saturday morning. [Laughter] I'm proud to be back in the State capital of Ohio.

I don't know if you know this or not, but my great grandfather built a home right here in Columbus, on Roxbury Road. The homebuilder they hired did a good job. [Laughter] The house still stands. [Laughter] My grandfather was born in this city back in 1895, so I hope a month from now the Ohio voters will send a home boy back to Washington.

For millions of our citizens, the American Dream starts with owning a home. Homeownership gives people a sense of pride and independence and confidence for the future. When you work hard, like you've done, and there are good policies coming out of our Nation's Capital, we're creating a home—an ownership society in this country where more Americans than ever will be able to open up their door where they live and say, "Welcome to my house. Welcome to my piece of property."

I was in Florida this week. And I've been there quite often because of the hurricanes, and I want to thank you for the good work that the homebuilders are doing for the people of that State. Homebuilders have collected donations of cash and building materials for families that have lost so much. They've established an online disaster contractor network to help put homeowners in touch with licensed contractors and with Government officials who can help those people that have been hurt by these storms.

The Federal Government is also doing its part, along with State and local authorities.

Florida has been through a terrible time. And so have many communities here in Ohio, that have suffered severe flooding caused by the hurricanes. We've issued disaster declarations for 20 counties in Ohio, making residents whose homes have been damaged or destroyed eligible for assistance. In Florida, Ohio, and other storm-damaged—ravaged States, we will not rest until life is back to normal, the damage repaired, and the homes are rebuilt.

Laura sends her best. When I asked her to marry me, she was a public school librarian in Texas. [Applause] There you are. Just wanted to see if any of the home State folks are here. [Laughter] I know Conine is here. [Laughter] She said, "Fine, I'll marry you, just so long as I never have to give a political speech." [Laughter] I said, "Okay." [Laughter] Fortunately, she didn't hold me to that promise. The American people are learning what I know: She's a compassionate, decent, strong First Lady for our country.

I want to thank Bobby Rayburn and Annette for their invitation and their leadership of this important group. I appreciate the board of directors who are here today. I want to thank the guests who are here today.

I'm traveling today with Senator Mike DeWine from the State of Ohio, who is a fine United States Senator. I appreciate you coming, Mike. Congressman Dave Hobson and Carolyn are with us today. Thank you for coming, Congressman. I appreciate you being here. Congressman Pat Tiberi is here. Thank you for coming, Pat. I'm proud you're here. He brought his mother, Rina, with him.

Yesterday I was in New Hampshire speaking, and Mother showed up. [Laughter] Just wanted to make sure she could continue giving me some instructions. [Laughter] Tiberi, my only advice to you is do what I do, and that's listen to your mother. [Laughter] I appreciate your dad, Joe, being here, and your sister.

I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor from this State being here, Jennette Bradley, and happy birthday to you, Governor. I appreciate it. Betty Montgomery, the State auditor is here. I know there's other local officials and State officials. We all appreciate you being here today.